

BOSTON COLLEGE  
Department of Economics

EC131.04  
Principles of Economics – Micro  
Fall, 2008  
Fulton 220  
MWF 9

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appointment

Texts: Samuelson, Paul A., Nordhaus, William D. Economics, 18<sup>th</sup> ed. 2004.

Course Requirements: 3 midterm exams (30% each), Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>  
Presentation (10%) on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov 21<sup>st</sup>  
Problem sets (optional, but highly recommended)

Course Organization and Expectations:

This course is designed to meet a number of needs. It is the first course in the economics major, it is a required course for all CSOM students, it is one of the choices to fulfill the social sciences CORE requirement, and it serves as an elective to anyone who wants an introduction to economics. It introduces the basic tools of economic analysis and applies these tools to problems both of historical interest and of current public policy. It explores the development of economic analysis through the work of Adam Smith, Malthus, Ricardo, Marx, Keynes and other important names in the field. Finally it looks at how we bring together what we learn from economics with what we learn from other fields.

You are expected to read the text carefully, attend all classes, work through the problem sets, and participate in class. There is no grade for participation, but it might contribute to your final grade. You may work together on problem sets – indeed you are encouraged to do so – but do not simply copy someone else’s work. You are to work through your own answers before turning them in. This will make your life much easier for the exams.

Your work on exams is to be done entirely on your own. Be sure you are familiar with the sections on “Academic Integrity” in the Boston College Catalog (pp. 35-36) or online BCInfo, (A-Z index, Academic Integrity). Be aware that your instructor takes this most seriously.

**There will be no make-up exams.** If you miss an exam for good reason, let me know immediately by email or phone (my phone has voice mail in case I am not in) and you will be graded on the other exam and final.

Problem sets are not required, but are extremely recommended. They will be checked and might help on your final grade. There will be one problem set and one sample exam before each midterm.

You will be required to do a presentation in the end of the semester. You have to choose an article from a newspaper or magazine and analyze it using some of the tools that we have covered in class. The course will be much more meaningful if you follow current policy issues and then look at them in terms of the analytical apparatus developed throughout the course. The idea of the presentation is to stimulate you to do exactly this. This will be a short presentation (from 5 to 10 minutes) about the article. In addition you will be required to hand in written comments about this article – that is, analyzing the article with the tools you learned in class. It should not be longer than one page. I suggest that you show me the article that you have chosen a few days before the presentation. You are also required to email me power point slides two days before your presentation.